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URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year
1954..

URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

Committee: June 1954 - May 1955

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor L.C. Christensen

Members:

Councillor O.T. Bowton

" F.C. Brown

" Mrs. H.D. Robinson

" A.D. Rogers

" R.G. Tayler

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor C.E. Jefferies, J.P. (ex officio)

Meeting: Monday of the week preceding the date of the
Council Meeting (held on the last Tuesday
in each month) at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

L.H.B. LIGHT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (to 28. 2.54)

T.D. BLOTT, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (from 1. 3.54)

Sanitary Inspector:

KENNETH V. SPROAT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board as Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.)

Inspector under the Petroleum Acts.

Inspector under the Shops Act.

Certifying Officer under the Government's Fatstock
Guarantee Scheme.

Clerk:

Mrs. E.M. Rezelman.

INDEX

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| Bacteriological Examinations | 14 |
| Bakehouses | 14 |
| Dairies | 14 |
| Factories | 8 |
| Houseboats and Jetties | 8 |
| Housing | 11 |
| Ice Cream | 15 |
| Inspection of Council Houses | 7 |
| Inspection and Supervision of Food | 14 |
| Meat and other Foods | 15 |
| Movable Dwellings and Camping Sites | 9 |
| Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis | 3 |
| Oysters | 18 |
| Pollution of Water Courses | 5 |
| Public Health Act Byelaws | 9 |
| Registration of Food Premises | 18 |
| Registration of Hawkers of Food | 18 |
| Rodent Control | 9 |
| Sanitary Circumstances of the Area | 4 |
| Sanitary Inspection of the Area | 5 |
| Shops | 11 |
| Slaughtermen | 11 |
| Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area | 3 |
| Summary of Inspections | 6 |
| Tabular Statement of the Causes of Death | 4 |
| Tuberculosis - New Cases and Mortality | 4 |
| Vital Statistics | 3 |
| Water Supplies | 4 |

TABLES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| I Analysis of Defects or Nuisances | 5 |
| II Details of Office Correspondence | 6 |
| III Rodent Control Inspections | 10 |
| IV Slaughtering Statistics | 17 |

APPENDICES

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| I Analysis of Inspections |
| II Sanitary Improvements |
| III Maintenance of Council Houses |

To the Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

On March 1st 1954 I succeeded Dr. L.H.B. Light as your Medical Officer of Health and it is therefore my duty to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer. The appointment of a full time Medical Officer is a break with tradition since the practice of having a General Practitioner resident in the town as Medical Officer of Health is of long standing. There are, however, advantages in co-ordinating services which it is hoped will outweigh any disadvantages of having a non resident Medical Officer, especially as so many health services are now administered by the County Council to whom I allot a proportion of my time.

The mid year estimate of population was 3,830.

The crude Birth Rate for 1954 was 14.9 per thousand of the population. The corrected rate was 17.8 per thousand. This compares with the Birth Rate for England & Wales for 1954 of 15.2 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1953 were 16.3 and 15.5 respectively.

The crude Death Rate for 1954 was 12.0 per thousand of the population. The corrected rate was 8.8 per thousand. This compares with the Death Rate for England & Wales for 1954 of 11.3 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1953 were 9.1 and 11.4 respectively.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was one.

Apart from an epidemic of dysentery during the Spring and Summer of the year, which was apparently introduced by a visitor, the health of the town proved excellent.

There were no cases of diphtheria during the year. This phrase is almost taken for granted now but it is not always realised that this is due to immunisation in childhood. Unless about 70% of our child population are immunised I feel it is only a question of time before this deadly disease will again begin to take its toll of child life as it did so short a time ago.

At present probably less than half those needing protection are being immunised. I hear the following excuses for not having this vital service done:-

- (1) "He is never ill".
- (2) "His father objects".
- (3) "He is allergic to injections".

The public must be taught to realise that diphtheria is no respecter of persons and kills fit and frail alike. Objectors must realise that the health of all requires sacrifices by all and that other children require protecting against their children who may be carriers.

If an allergic child gets diphtheria he will need many injections and is likely to suffer far worse than from a preventive dose, in fact he needs protection more than any other child.

There cannot be 30% of cranks and crocks in our population so I feel a little more appreciation of the risk would soon result in about 95% being immunised.

I would like to thank the Council for their patience and kindness in listening to my monthly reports and to add that the day to day administration of the Public Health Department would not be possible but for the ceaseless activity of your Sanitary Inspector Mr. K.V. Sproat.

I have the honour to be, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T.D. Blott,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1954.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| Area | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,525 acres |
| Population | - Registrar General's estimate for mid-year 3,830 | | | | | | | | |
| Ratable value at 1st April 1954 | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £24,359 |
| Product of a penny rate at 1st April 1954 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £96.10. 9 |

VITAL STATISTICS

| | | M. | F. | | |
|-------------|--------------|----|----|--|------|
| Live Births | Total | 27 | 30 | { Birth rate per thousand of estimated resident population | 14.9 |
| | Legitimate | 26 | 29 | | |
| | Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | | |
| Stillbirths | Total | 0 | 2 | | |
| Deaths | | 24 | 22 | { Crude death rate per thousand of estimated resident population | 12.0 |

This includes 16 Inward and 2 Outward Transferable Deaths.

There were no deaths either from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | 17.5 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|------|

There were 4 deaths from cancer (all ages) but none from either measles, whooping cough, or diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Tabular statement of Deaths classified according to ages:-

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Number of Deaths</u> |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Under 1 | 1 |
| 5 and under 25 | Nil |
| 25 " " 35 | 1 |
| 35 " " 45 | 1 |
| 45 " " 55 | 2 |
| 55 " " 65 | 3 |
| 65 " " 75 | 15 |
| 75 and over | 23 |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

| Number of cases notified: | Scarlet Fever | Whooping Cough | Measles |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| | Dysentery | Puerperal Pyrexia | Ac. Pneumonia |
| | 48 | 1 | 8 |

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

There were three new cases notified, all females, two being pulmonary and the other non pulmonary. There were no deaths from this disease.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH

| <u>Causes of Death</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Tuberculosis, etc. | - | - | - |
| Measles | - | - | - |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases | 1 | - | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | - | 1 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | - | 2 | 2 |
| Diabetes | 1 | - | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other heart disease | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Other circulatory disease | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Ulcer of stomach & duodenum | 1 | - | 1 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 1 | - | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate, etc. | - | - | - |
| Other defined and ill defined diseases | <u>1</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> |
| | <u>24</u> | <u>22</u> | <u>46</u> |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

Throughout the year under review the public water supply to the District by the Council's Waterworks was adequate in quantity. 25 samples were taken, 22 being from the water going into supply, and all results were indicative of a water which was wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

6 samples were taken from private sources. One property was connected to mains water supply but not as a result of any action by the Department. Another well, at one time serving a movable dwelling stationed on the site, was disused as a result of the commencement of building operations on the site and a supply of mains water being laid on. The number of private wells in use in the District was thereby reduced to 7. The total number of properties served was 31 of which 28 were supplied by means of pipes.

2 farm wells, one of which was referred to in the Report for 1953, were fitted with Chlorination Plant.

Arising out of the pilot survey of housing, also referred to in last year's Report, and concerning the 58 properties provided with standpipes serving at least one other property, 8 were provided with an interior water supply. 5 were as the result of Formal Undertakings to repair given by the respective owners, and 2 were so provided under Formal Notice. A further 4 were made the subject of Closing Orders. It was estimated that by the end of the year not more than 40 properties were sharing a water supply and it should be emphasised that of this number 13 were included in Clearance Orders made during the year.

Pollution of Water Courses

Only 2 visits were made in this connection as compared with 59 for the previous year and these 2 visits were concerned with a farm cesspool where extensive alterations were carried out as a result of a meeting with a director of the firm responsible.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The number of complaints received in the Office was 395 as compared with 341 for last year. The total visits made in this connection was 450 of which 333 were to Council properties.

With reference to the inspections made on complaint of premises other than Council property, the number of defects or nuisances revealed was 61, and these are analysed in the following table.

TABLE I

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| General housing defects | 17 |
| Verminous premises (bedbugs) | 1 |
| Rodent infestations | 23 |
| River pollution | 2 |
| Drains blocked | 3 |
| Drains defective | 2 |
| Closets defective | 2 |
| Blocked sewers | <u>11</u> |
| | <u>61</u> |

Informal Notices were at once served on the owners or occupiers of the premises concerned but in the case of the verminous premises the necessary spray was hired out to the occupier and an insecticide consisting of 5% D.D.T. in Kerosene was supplied.

More detailed information as to rodent infestations is reported under the heading "Rodent Control".

Summary of Inspections

Details of the number of inspections made for various purposes are given in Appendix I. The total number of premises visited was 2456 as compared with 1965 for last year.

It is not generally realised that a large number of premises are inspected for a variety of purposes. For example, in the case of licensed houses, these are made under:-

- (1) Food & Drugs Acts -- Precautions against contamination of food (which includes all drink except water), cleanliness of food handlers, proper maintenance and cleanliness of all rooms where food is prepared, stored or sold.
- (2) Public Health Act -- Proper maintenance and cleanliness of sanitary accommodation.
- (3) Shops Act -- Health and comfort of employees.
- (4) Housing Acts -- Where Staff "live in" their accommodation is inspected and where necessary repairs enforced under these Acts.
- (5) Prevention of Damage by Pests Act -- For infestations of rats and mice.

In Appendix II are summarised the nuisances and defects dealt with during the year.

TABLE II

Letters sent out and Notices served in connection with the work of the Department:-

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Returns (various) | 29 |
| Infectious Disease Notifications | 67 |
| Letters | 866 |
| Orders (431) sent on | 250 occasions |
| Informal Notices | 81 |
| Statutory Notices | 16 |
| Other Formal Notices | 174 |

The Orders sent out were mainly in connection with Council House repairs.

The total of 174 Other Formal Notices includes 122 Notices served in connection with Clearance Orders.

Difficulty was experienced in dealing with clerical work. As a result the hours worked by the Sanitary Inspector's Clerk, who is only employed on a part time basis, were increased by 6 hours to a total of 15 hours per week.

Inspection of Council Houses

Appendix III shows the various defects or items of disrepair which were the subject of complaint or were discovered as a result of inspections made and in connection with which instructions were given for the execution of the necessary repairs.

The only points worthy of note in this connection are:-

- (a) Rayburn Cookers - A watchful eye was kept on the manner in which these stoves were used and resulted in 6 fewer bottom grates being fitted (5 as compared with 11 for the previous year) and 4 fewer stoves (18 as compared with 22) in which one or more new firebricks were fitted.
- (b) The number of ball valves renewed or repaired and adjusted increased to 43 from 28 for the previous year in the case of flushing cisterns, and 39 as compared with 19 in the case of storage tanks.
- (c) Various redecorations in connection with tenancy exchanges were carried out at 13 properties, 11 more than in the previous year. This is due to the fact that once the new tenant is in occupation he becomes responsible for maintaining the property in good and decorative repair. For this reason it is invariably the case that certain rooms, e.g. kitchen, bathroom and W.C., must be redecorated.
- (d) A total of 52 properties was painted externally during the year under review, 250 visits being made in connection with the supervision of this work.

This work is taking up an increasing amount of the Sanitary Inspector's time, bearing in mind that in 1950, when separate appointments of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector were first made, the total number of Council Houses was 141 whilst by the end of 1954, the year under review, this figure had increased to 197.

Factories

31 visits were paid to factories and other premises, 7 to the 10 non mechanical factories on the register, 15 to the 23 mechanical factories, 8 to the 12 other premises and 1 to an outworker's premises. Two instances occurred (one at a mechanical and the other at a non mechanical factory) of sanitary accommodation in a filthy condition. Informal action was taken at once and the defects were remedied within a few days. In both cases the Management expressed the opinion that the remedy is to a large extent in the hands of the employees themselves.

Houseboats and Jetties

These are controlled under the provisions of the Essex County Council Act 1952 and 41 visits were made for this purpose. No conditions were made by the Council in this respect apart from a requirement that applications for consent to moor or place a houseboat, and to place or erect a jetty providing access to a houseboat, should be made annually.

At the end of the year the number of houseboats for which consent had been given was 20 of which 13 were provided with jetties. In one instance consent was given subject to the construction of a self-closing door, between the sanitary accommodation and the galley, where no door existed. In two other instances the applications were refused because in one access could not be obtained and in the other the houseboat concerned was not fit for habitation by any standards.

Formal Notices were served in connection with nine "houseboats", mostly wrecks and derelict hulks, requiring their removal and demolition within a period of six months. The owners of five of these could not be traced and the Notices therefore had to be affixed to the vessels concerned. This action necessitated a number of journeys along the sea wall for a distance of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile each way from the Council Offices, in order to ensure that the Notices remained legible for the statutory period. Fortunately they also turned out to be "small boy" proof or more probably were not discovered by this section of the community.

By the end of the year two of the vessels referred to in the foregoing paragraph were demolished.

Movable Dwellings and Camping Sites

The number of caravan and camping sites in the District remained at 3 which includes that owned and operated by the Council.

The number of movable dwellings remained at 4, two of them being semi permanent in that they have been in the same enclosure for a number of year. The other two were of a temporary nature, one was used by Contractors engaged in completing repairs to the sea wall and the other by a Land Drainage Contractor.

Total visits paid to ensure the maintenance of sanitary conditions under this heading was 7. No action, formal or otherwise, was required.

Public Health Act 1936

Byelaws made under Section 81 of this Act by the Council

- (a) for preventing the occurrence of nuisances from snow, filth, dust, ashes and rubbish;
- (b) for preventing the keeping of animals so as to be prejudicial to health;

were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the 23rd August 1954 and came into operation on the 1st October.

Rodent Control

Owing to the fact that ample food stocks exist with adequate concealment for rats, it is obvious that agricultural properties in particular will soon support a large rat population if conditions are allowed to get out of hand. In point of fact the majority of farms in this District have contracts with the Maldon Rural District Council whereby that Authority's Rodent Operative pays frequent visits in order to keep down rats and mice. In only two instances were rats discovered on agricultural properties, one being concerned with a large piggery and the other with a chicken farm. In both cases the owner undertook to take all necessary steps to destroy the rats on his premises.

It is felt that the ordinary householder can do much to put his own house in order to reduce the rat population by depriving this pest of food and shelter. Such measures would include:-

- (1) The taking up at night of any uneaten poultry food.
- (2) By not putting down excessive amounts of food for wild birds.
- (3) Regular maintenance of sheds and other out-buildings and, where these are provided with wooden floors, by raising them at least 6" off the ground.

Accumulations of lumber behind such sheds will also harbour rats if left undisturbed.

The following table gives details of the inspections made of various premises for the purposes of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

TABLE III

| | Local Authority (1) | Dwelling Houses (2) | Agri- cultural (3) | All other (including business premises) (4) | Total (5) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------|
| I Total number of properties in Local Authority's District | 4 | 1341 | 27 | 162 | 1534 |
| II Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority as a result of (a) (a) - | - | 13 | 2 | 3 | 18 |
| notification, (b) survey (b) 4 | 4 | 31 | 7 | 11 | 53 |
| under the Act, (c) otherwise (c) - | - | 219 | 6 | 84 | 309 |
| e.g. when visited pri- marily for some other purpose. | | | | | |

The total number of properties inspected was 380, 18 as a result of notification. Details of these 18 complaints are as follows:-

Dwelling houses

8 of rats

4 of rats not proved

1 of mice

Agricultural

2 of rats

All Other

2 of rats

1 of mice

In addition infestations were discovered at:-

Dwelling houses

1 - rats

All Other

1 - rats

Council (Sewage Disposal Works) Rats on 3 occasions
during the year.

The use of a proprietary preparation of absorbed sodium cyanide was continued at the Sewage Disposal Works.

Once again it was not found necessary to test bait 10% of the sewer manholes.

Shops

During the year, the first complete one of operation of delegated powers under sub-sections (3), (4) and (5) of Section 38 of the Shops Act 1950, 35 inspections were made for this purpose.

Slaughtermen

Two persons were licensed as slaughtermen under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

HOUSING

The Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954 came into force on 30th August.

The Act contained a useful provision whereby any operative Demolition Order could be revoked if the owner of the premises was prepared to make them fit for human habitation.

Sections 6 to 8 of the Housing Act 1936 were repealed and new provisions, enabling Local Authorities to deal with houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family, were introduced. One Section enabled the Local Authority to require works to be carried out and another empowered an Authority to check overcrowding in such premises. Overcrowding here was not related to the artificial standards of Part IV of the 1936 Act but depended on the standards set by a particular Authority, subject to a right of appeal to the local County Court.

Part II amended the Rent Act and enabled landlords to increase rents in certain circumstances. The tenant whose house is not fit for human habitation is able to go to the Local Authority and ask for a certificate to that effect.

In October Clearance Orders involving 30 properties were made and submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation. At the time that the Orders were made 7 properties had been made the subject of Closing Orders under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 after the tenants had been rehoused by the Council.

Four new cases of overcrowding concerning 36 persons were reported during the year and all were relieved by the end of the year.

Statistics for the year 1954

1. Number of Houses erected during the year:-

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| (i) By the Local Authority | 18 |
| (ii) By Private Enterprise | 9 |
| | <u>27</u> |

2. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year.

| | |
|--|----|
| 1(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 51 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 53 |
| 2(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | 6 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 6 |
| 3 Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 6 |
| 4 Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 35 |

3. Remedy of Defects during the year without
service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses
rendered fit in consequence of
informal action by the Local
Authority or their Officers 20

4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

A Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of
the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of
which Notices were served requiring
repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were
rendered fit after service of Formal
Notices

(a) By Owners 1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 2

B Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of
which Notices were served requiring
defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects
were remedied after service of Formal
Notices 2

C Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing
Act 1936, and Section 10, Local Government
(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1952.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of
which Closing Orders were made 4

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a
result of informal action 0

D Statutory undertakings - Section 11,
Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of
which formal undertakings were given
by owners 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were
completed under formal undertakings
by owners 5

-14-

A pilot survey of housing was referred to in the report for 1953 and with reference to this survey 7 properties were provided with sinks, whilst the four properties served by only one sink and copper were included in one of the Clearance Orders.

The position with regard to water supply has been mentioned earlier in this report.

Proper food stores were provided in two properties and provision was made for ventilating the existing food stores in a further eight properties.

In connection with the 14 houses with winding stairs, 7 were included in Clearance Orders.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Bacteriological Examinations

The Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. undertake bacteriological examinations in respect of water, ice cream and oysters for the Council through the Essex Bacteriological Laboratory Service. The bacteriological examination of samples of milk is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Westcliff Hospital.

During the year under review 52 samples were forwarded for examination, 31 being samples of drinking water (25 public, 6 private), 18 of ice cream, 2 of milk and 1 of oysters.

Bakehouses

No formal action was necessary during the year in order to secure satisfactory conditions in the three bakehouses in the District.

Dairies

Only one dairy (not being a dairy farm) remained on the register for the District. From these premises non-designated milk was retailed and it is of interest to note that this milk was the only raw milk (as distinct from heat treated milk) available in this District, one of the farm producers in the area having ceased to operate as retailers on their own account.

The following table shows the licences granted during the year for the sale of milk under Special Designation as provided by the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949 - 1953:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk
2 Dealers Licences
1 Dealer's Supplementary Licence

Pasteurised Milk
2 Dealers Licences
1 Dealer's Supplementary Licence

Sterilised Milk
2 Dealers Licences
1 Dealer's Supplementary Licence

The number of separate vendors concerned was four. In addition one other person (the retailer of non-designated milk referred to above) was registered as a milk distributor under the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 & 1953.

Two samples, one being of pasteurised and the other of non-designated milk, were taken during the year in order to supplement the County Milk Testing Scheme. Both samples were satisfactory.

Ice Cream

The registration of manufacturers or vendors of ice cream is secured by Section 158 of the Essex County Council 1933 Act and the number of persons so registered was increased by one during the year to bring the total to 23.

The bacteriological results of ice cream samples are summarised below and it should be noted that the presence of B.coli was not detected in any.

| <u>Grade I</u> | <u>Grade II</u> | <u>Grade III</u> | <u>Grade IV</u> | <u>Not Classified</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 14 | 1 | - | - | 3 |

The heading "Not Classified" relates to samples of Fruit Lollies all of which were from the same manufacturer. The first one to be taken during the year contained more bacteria than is usual in a frozen product but both subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods

In July 1954 meat was freed once more after having been subject to ministerial control since January 1940.

It was hoped that de-control would not see a return to the conditions obtaining before the war when an estimated 12 1/2,000 slaughterhouses were in operation. This figure was subsequently reduced to about 600 during meat rationing.

The Minister of Food announced that it was the intention of the Government to bring about a moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities throughout the country but that this long term policy would take some years to apply. However under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act 1954 Local Authorities were again empowered to grant or renew licences in respect of private slaughterhouses subject to compliance with requirements relating to sanitary conditions and the prevention of cruelty. In the case of premises not previously used as slaughterhouses no licence could be granted without the consent of the Minister.

Power already existed in the Food & Drugs Act 1938 enabling a Local Authority which had provided a public slaughterhouse to close some or all of the private slaughterhouses in its District. The new Act extended this power so that it could be exercised by a Local Authority which had not provided a public slaughterhouse but was of the opinion that there was adequate alternative public slaughtering accommodation in a neighbouring District to meet the requirements of its own district.

Three applications were received for the issue of licences in respect of slaughterhouses one of which concerned premises not previously used as such and was therefore referred to the Minister. The other two were with regard to old slaughterhouses at which extensive repairs and alterations were necessary. Notices were served on the respective owners specifying the works which had to be carried out in order to render their premises suitable. In the meantime their applications were adjourned for a period of three months.

In October formal consent of the Minister of Food to the licensing of a slaughterhouse at Brook Farm (the first application referred to above) was given. The other two applicants had already notified the Council of their intentions not to proceed any further. The Brook Farm slaughterhouse was also approved as an ordinary deadweight certification centre for pigs at the end of November.

The following table gives details of the number of various classes of animals which were slaughtered and inspected post mortem at the slaughterhouse in the 2½ months from the date of issue of the licence up to the end of the year. The total number of visits made was 39. Included in the figure for pigs were 22 which were dealt with under the Government's Fatstock Guarantee Scheme.

TABLE IV

| | Beasts | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs |
|---|--------|------|--------|-------|------|
| Number killed | 27 | 11 | 46 | 2 | 153 |
| Number inspected | 27 | 11 | 46 | 2 | 153 |
| Tuberculosis only - | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned: | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned: | - | - | - | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected so affected: | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other Diseases - | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned: | - | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned: | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | 11 |
| Percentage of the number inspected so affected: | 11.1 | 9.1 | 6.5 | - | 8.5 |

It was reported to the Council in November that overtime was having to be worked at the slaughterhouse owing to the operative provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations. Very broadly these indicate that any animal slaughtered after 4 o'clock in the afternoon must be inspected "or its removal authorised" before 7 o'clock the following morning. The total overtime for 10 periods was 21 hours and on one occasion attendance at the slaughterhouse was from 8 o'clock one evening to 1 o'clock the following morning. It was emphasised that time off for overtime was not a practicable proposition for it interferes with normal duties. The Council subsequently agreed to make a special payment in this respect based on the actual number of hours worked outside normal office hours.

Reciprocal arrangements were entered into with the Borough of Maldon for meat inspection during periods of annual leave, sickness etc. This entailed six visits during August to a Butcher's Slaughterhouse at Maldon, the number of animals dealt with being 2 bullocks, 2 cows, 6 heifers, 1 calf, 11 sheep and 6 pigs.

The following list gives details of the diseased or unsound meat and other articles of food found unfit for human consumption at shops and premises other than the slaughterhouse which were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

| <u>Tinned Foods etc.</u> | <u>No. of Tins</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Fruit | 4 |
| Soup | 1 |
| Milk | 5 |
| Vegetables | 3 |
| <u>Other Foods</u> | <u>Lbs.</u> |
| Cheese | 28 |

Condemnation Certificates were issued in respect of
15 lbs. of imported beef.

Oysters

One sample of oysters was taken (in the Spring) which passed Houston's Lenient Standard of Purity and was classified Grade II on examination by the Clegg and Sherwood Method.

Registration of Hawkers of Food and their Premises

This is secured by Section 103 of the Essex County Council Act 1952 and the number of persons so registered was 2. No premises were concerned.

Registration of Food Premises

This is secured by Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 and there was one addition during the year bringing the total to 22. 19 of these are registered for the sale of ice cream, including one where ice cream is "manufactured" by reconstitution of a cold mix powder. The other three premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

ADDENDUM -- PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

The following is the result of an analysis of a sample taken from the No. 2 Borehole at the Council's Waterworks during the month of June 1954.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance - Bright with a distinct granular deposit.
Microscopic examination shows siliceous particles (sand).

| | | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Colour | 3 | Turbidity | less than 3 |
| pH | 8.5 | Odour | nil |
| Electric Conductivity | 1750 | Free Carbon Dioxide | absent |
| Chlorine present as Chloride | 370 | Total Solids | 1170 |
| | | Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate | 375 |
| Hardness: Total 30 Carbonate 30 | | Non-carbonate | 0 |
| Nitrate Nitrogen | 0.0 | Nitrite Nitrogen | less than 0.01 |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen | 0.56 | Oxygen absorbed | 0.40 |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen | 0.007 | Residual Chlorine | absent |
| Metals - Iron: 0.10, other metals absent. | | | |

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

| | 1 day at 37° C. | 2 days at 37° C. | 3 days at 20° C. |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Number of Colonies developing on Agar | 370 per ml. | 800 per ml. | ... per ml. |
| | Present in | Absent from | Probable number |
| Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction | 50 + ml. | 20 ml. | 5 per 100 ml. |
| Bact.coli. (Type 1) | - ml. | 100 ml. | 0 per 100 ml. |
| Cl. welchii Reaction | ... ml. | ... ml. | |

+ Intermediate Type I.

APPENDIX I - ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS

| | <u>Inspections</u> <u>made</u> | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| <u>Housing</u> | | |
| Inspections | 61 | |
| Visits for the purpose | 5 | |
| Re-visits re Notices served | 517 | |
| Overcrowding | 2 | |
| Rent Restrictions Acts | 6 | |
| Housing enquiries | 46 | |
| Visits for the purpose | 30 | 667 |
| <u>Factories</u> | | |
| Mechanical | 14 | |
| Non Mechanical | 7 | |
| Bakehouses | 1 | |
| Outworkers | 1 | |
| Workplaces | 2 | |
| Building operations | 8 | 33 |
| <u>Meat and Food</u> | | |
| Shops - Meat | 6 | |
| Wet Fish | 4 | |
| Wet and Fried Fish | 6 | |
| General Provisions | 11 | |
| Others | 31 | |
| Slaughterhouses | 46 | |
| Proposed Slaughterhouses | 8 | |
| Ice Cream Premises | 25 | |
| Proposed Cafe and Ice Cream Premises | 1 | |
| Street Food Vendors | 4 | |
| Dairies | 1 | |
| Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens | 25 | |
| Other Food Preparing Premises | 4 | |
| Proposed Food Premises | 1 | |
| Sampling - Ice Cream | 17 | |
| Milk | 2 | |
| Water | 9 | |
| Private Water Supply (Chlorination) | 4 | |
| Oysters | 1 | 206 |
| <u>General Sanitation</u> | | |
| Visits on Complaint - Council Houses | 333 | |
| Others | 117 | |
| Re-visits re Notices served | 163 | |
| Re-visits other than above | 43 | |
| Council Houses - other visits | 266 | |
| Movable Dwellings | 7 | |
| Schools | 4 | |
| Carried forward | 933 | 906 |

APPENDIX I (Contd.)

| | <u>Inspections</u> <u>made</u> | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Brought forward | 933 | 906 |
| <u>General Sanitation (Contd.)</u> | | |
| Shops Acts | 35 | |
| Hairdressers | 1 | |
| Public and Private Conveniences | 10 | |
| Petroleum Acts | 2 | |
| River Pollution | 2 | |
| Refuse Collection and Disposal | 0 | |
| Rodent Control | 380 | |
| Infectious Disease | 39 | |
| Interviews | 165 | |
| Supervision of Painting | 250 | |
| Houseboats | 41 | |
| Miscellaneous Visits | 93 | 1,951 |
| | | <u>2,857</u> |
| | | <u>2,857</u> |

APPENDIX II - SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Roofs repaired | 11 |
| Rainwater gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed | 12 |
| Walls repaired | 10 |
| External brickwork repointed or repaired | 3 |
| Wall and ceiling plaster repaired | 12 |
| Floors repaired | 16 |
| Increased sub floor ventilation provided | 2 |
| Stairs and stair rails repaired | 10 |
| Woodwork of windows and doors repaired | 23 |
| Sashcords, glazing and putties repaired or renewed | 16 |
| Stoves and fire grates repaired or renewed | 12 |
| Flues and chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt | 15 |
| Dampness remedied | 8 |
| Yard surfaces repaired or relaid | 6 |
| Yard drainage improved | 6 |
| Washing coppers provided | 2 |
| Washing coppers repaired or renewed | 1 |
| Proper food stores provided | 2 |
| Existing food stores ventilated | 8 |
| Rodent infestations abated | 19 |
| Drainage | |
| Drain Tests -- new drains | 9 |
| -- existing drains | 4 |
| Drains -- cleansed | 2 |
| -- repaired | 2 |
| -- constructed or reconstructed | 9 |
| Inspection | |
| Chambers -- repaired | 3 |
| -- new ones constructed | 2 |
| Sewers -- cleansed | 7 |
| -- maintained | 1 |
| Water Closets -- repaired or reconstructed | 9 |
| -- pedestal wash-down W.C. basins fixed | 7 |
| -- flushing cisterns repaired or renewed | 1 |
| -- provided with supply of water | 6 |
| Water Supply | |
| Wells -- closed | 1 |
| -- repaired | 1 |
| -- fitted with Chlorinator | 2 |
| Sufficient water supply provided | 2 |
| Interior water supply provided | 6 |
| Water supply piping or fittings repaired or renewed | 1 |
| Sinks provided | 7 |
| Fried Fish Shops -- repairs | 4 |
| Other food premises -- cleansed and redecorated | 2 |
| -- repairs | 1 |
| -- improvements | 1 |
| Factories and workplaces | |
| Defective sanitary accommodation | 2 |

APPENDIX III - MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL HOUSES

Exterior

| | | |
|---|----|-----|
| Rainwater guttering and downpipes repaired or renewed | 11 | |
| Doors and windows eased and repaired | 11 | |
| Window fasteners, stays and hinges repaired | 4 | |
| Broken glass renewed | 5 | |
| Roofs repaired | 12 | |
| Flues and chimney stacks repaired | 12 | |
| Louvred chimney pots fitted | 2 | |
| Dampness remedied | 5 | |
| Gates and fences repaired | 10 | |
| External walls repointed or repaired | 3 | |
| Dustbins renewed | 20 | |
| Fuel bins renewed | 3 | |
| Rainwater butts renewed | 0 | |
| Doors and windows weatherproofed | 6 | 104 |

Drainage

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| Gullies repaired | 2 | |
| Drains repaired | 2 | |
| Blocked drains cleared | 6 | |
| Drain and soil ventilating pipes repaired | 2 | 12 |

Interior

| | | |
|--|----|-----|
| Broken locks or lock furniture repaired or renewed | 5 | |
| Wall and ceiling plaster repaired | 6 | |
| Redecorations (new tenancies) | 13 | |
| Kitchen ranges - repaired or renewed | 3 | |
| -- new firebricks fitted | 1 | |
| -- new bottom grates | 1 | |
| -- miscellaneous repairs | 3 | |
| -- replaced with open fires | 2 | |
| Rayburn Cookers- firebricks fitted to | 18 | |
| -- new bottom grates | 5 | |
| -- safety valves repaired | 4 | |
| -- boilers repaired or renewed | 1 | |
| -- miscellaneous repairs | 4 | |
| Open fires - tiled surrounds repaired | 6 | |
| -- hearths repaired | 1 | |
| -- firebricks repaired or renewed | 10 | |
| -- new stools supplied | 4 | |
| -- miscellaneous repairs | 1 | |
| Floors repaired | 2 | |
| Supply of electricity installed | 2 | |
| Faulty electrical fittings repaired or renewed | 17 | |
| Stairs handrails repaired | 2 | |
| Miscellaneous woodwork repairs | 3 | 114 |

Carried forward

230

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

Brought forward

230

Water Supplies

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----|-----|
| Ball valves repaired to | - water waste preventers | 43 | |
| | - storage tanks | 39 | |
| Taps repaired or renewed | | 5 | |
| Perished tap washers renewed | | 15 | |
| Water storage tanks repaired or renewed | | 7 | |
| Hot water supply piping repaired or renewed | | 11 | |
| Cold water supply piping repaired or renewed | | 1 | |
| Burst and frozen pipes repaired | | 28 | 149 |

Sanitary Facilities

| | |
|---|----|
| Wash copper pans renewed | 1 |
| Sink and lavatory basin brackets repaired or renewed | 2 |
| Draining boards repaired or renewed | 12 |
| Waste pipes repaired or unstopped | 16 |
| W.C. pans renewed | 4 |
| Lavatory basins renewed | 1 |
| W.C. seats repaired or renewed | 3 |
| Leaking W.C. cone and other joints repaired or renewed | 15 |
| Plinths formed to rear edge of sinks | 9 |
| Water waste preventers repaired or renewed | 5 |

447